

Application No.: 10/783107
Amendment dated: January 27, 2006
Reply to Office action of October 28, 2005

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

The following amendments are submitted in view of the requirement in the Official action, solely in order to avoid a holding of non-responsiveness. However, if the Examiner is convinced by the grounds set forth in the request for reconsideration in the remarks section of this response, the following amendments should not be entered.

Please replace paragraph [0039] with the following amended paragraph:

[0039] It was determined from experiments that, when the anti-rewetting layer 40 is made of nylon, its thickness is desirably in the range of 20 to 50:μm ~~50μm~~, and its elongation at break is desirably 300% or more.

Please replace paragraph [0074] with the following amended paragraph:

[0074] To establish equivalent conditions for the examples and the comparative examples, the basic structure of all the felts was as follows:

Base body: plain weave of twisted yarn of nylon mono-filament, with basis weight of 300g/m²

Batt layer: staple fiber of nylon 6 with total basis weight of 550g/m²

Needle punching density: 1000 times /cm²

Needle: point 51 having R= 0.075mm at the tip; triangular cross section; and barbs 52a formed in every edge 52.

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Example 1

Anti-rewetting layer 40: non-oriented film made of nylon
Elongation at break: 500%
Thickness: 25 : ~~25~~ μ
Shape of opening 44: funnel
Permeability: 5cc/cm²/sec

Example 2

Anti-rewetting layer 40: non-oriented film made of nylon
Elongation at break: 300%
Thickness: 25 : ~~25~~ μ
Shape of opening 44: funnel
Permeability: 6cc/cm²/ sec

Comparative Example 1

Anti-rewetting layer 40: biaxially oriented film of nylon
Elongation at break: 125%
Thickness: 25 : ~~25~~ μ
Shape of opening 44: funnel, but a tear in the direction
of orientation of the film was found. The tear was
not so large as to connect two openings 44.
Permeability: 10cc/cm²/ sec

Comparative Example 2

Anti-rewetting layer 40: Uniaxially oriented film of
nylon
Elongation at break: 45%
Thickness: 25 : ~~25~~ μ

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Shape of opening 44: Funnel-shaped, but a large tear was found in the direction of orientation of the film.

Two openings 44 were connected because of the tear.

Permeability: 15cc/cm²/ sec